

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8284

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 14101

STADIS //////////////////////////////////

AF FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLE
CU FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY RICHARDSON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SCUL, OEXC, NI
SUBJECT: US FESTAC REPRESENTATION

REF: (A) STATE 293979 (B) LAGOS 13620

1. AS WE UNDERSTAND DONALDSON CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN ALL-OR-NOTHING POSITION ON NAZ FESTAC PARTICIPATION, AND AS TIME IS RAPIDLY RUNNING OUT, WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S ASSESSMENT AND GUIDANCE AS TO WHAT CAN AND SHOULD BE DONE TO ENSURE THE BEST US FESTAC REPRESENTATION POSSIBLE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

2. WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED OFFICIAL INVITATION(BEING POUCHED) FROM FESTAC PRESIDENT FINGESI TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY RICHARDSON TO ATTEND THE FESTIVAL. IF OFFICIAL USEL COULD BE TRANSPORTED BY USG AIRCRAFT, BALANCE OF PLANE'S CAPACITY MIGHT BE DEVOTED TO FESTAC PERFORMERS. THIS, TOGETHER WITH CHARTER FLIGHT PROPOSED PARA 3 (C) REF (A), COULD HELP SPREAD US REPRESENTATION OVER A LONGER PERIOD DURING FESTAC.

3. AMBASSADOR HAD OCCASION DISCUSS FESTAC STATUS TODAY WITH FINGESI AND FMG CABINET SECRETARY AYIDA. WHEN AMBASSADOR
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MENTIONED DONALDSON'S STATEMENT AT RECENT PRESS CONVERSATION CONCERNING HIS COMMITMENT TO 800 PERFORMERS, FINGESI SAID "DONALDSON SHOULD NOT BE SO OBSTINATE, EVERYONE HAS HAD TO CUT BACK." AMBASSADOR SAID USG WAS EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF USG FINANCING A CHARTER CARRYING 180 PERFORMERS. AMBASSADOR WONDERED HOW THESE PERFORMERS WOULD

BE SELECTED IN EVENT DONALDSON REFUSED COOPERATE. FINGESI SAID "SURELY SOMEONE IN THE NAZ WILL STAY SENSIBLE.". IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT FINGESI WILLING ACCEPT 180 PERSONS CHOSEN BY USG IF NECESSARY, PROVIDED BIG NAMES ARE INCLUDED. AYIDA TOLD FINGESI TO GIVE AMBASSADOR THE LIST OF AMERICAN VIP'S PERSONALLY SELECTED B OBASANJO FOR SPECIAL FESTAC INVITATION.

4. HAS DEPARTMENT PURSUED WITH DONALDSON PROPOSAL ADVANCED REF (A)? HAS DEPARTMENT GIVEN THOUGHT TO PARAS 3 AND 4 OF REF (B)?.
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